

### Tuddenham Fen NNR, West Suffolk, 20 October 1990

Leader: I. F. G. McLean. A chill, foggy morning deterred all but three members from attending this meeting at a reserve which belies its name by having substantial areas of heathland and woodland within its boundaries, as well as remnants of river valley fen in northern compartments adjacent to the River Lark. The exceptionally hot summer had left the low-lying fen areas even drier than usual, with the shallow pool on the west edge of the reserve completely dried out. Furthermore, the heathland on the southern side of the site next to the road had much less heather than formerly, this area now presenting a predominantly grassy aspect. Two members investigated the autumn Diptera and the third searched for leaf mines and other distinctive traces of Microlepidoptera. The morning was given over to exploring the southern two-thirds of the reserve, mainly amongst birch woodland along the western margin. We then returned to our cars for much needed refreshments, the consumption of which was enlivened by the presence of large numbers of the scarce empidid fly *Hilara hirtella* Collin skimming low over puddles on the road. After lunch a longer walk into the northern fringes of fen and *Salix* carr was accompanied by clearance of the final traces of mist and the reward of a mild, sunny afternoon. A total of 65 species of Microlepidoptera were found during the day, including four new vice-county records for VC26. The uncommon species *Stigmella svenssoni* (Johan.) on *Quercus*, and *Cosmopterix orichalcea* Staint. on *Phragmites* were good records, and the emergence of either *Phyllonorycter viminiella* (Sirc.) or *P. viminetorum* Staint. from mines on *Salix viminalis* L. is awaited with interest. An exceptional abundance of *Bucculatrix ulmella* Zell. was observed on *Quercus*, with some branches having more than 10 mines on almost every leaf. Among the flies a modest total of 22 species of fungus gnats included the local East Anglian species *Mycetophila confusa* Dz., while the Platypezidae (whose larvae also develop in fungi) were represented by single females of *Protoclythia modesta* (Zett.) and *P. rufa* (Meig.). The deer ked *Lipoptena cervi* (L.) was generally common, being found by sweeping and was also frequently observed alighting on our clothing and nets. A single male of the local empidid *Rhamphomyia spinipes* (Fall.) was a pleasing find, and a pair of *Opetia nigra* Meig. landed while *in cop.* on a white sweep net. A few *Paroxyna misella* (Loew) were found at the edge of the dried out pool, though there was no sign of the larval host plant (*Artemisia vulgaris* L.) in the vicinity. Tuddenham Fen has had less entomological recording than other nearby National Nature Reserves, consequently many of the insects found during this field meeting were welcome as additions to the list for the site.

### SHORT COMMUNICATION

*Phloiотrya vaudoueri* (Muls.) (Coleoptera: Melandryidae) in the Forest of Dean, W. Gloucestershire.—While on a field meeting of the Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group, a single adult of the rare *Phloiотrya vaudoueri* was found beneath loose bark on a fallen oak bough close to Cannop Ponds (SO608112), within the Forestry Commission's Cannop Valley Forest Nature Reserve, 15.vii.1989. This is an area of open-canopied oak pasture woodland, with bracken and acidic grassland. The beetle has not been reported from the Dean before (Atty, 1983) and was until recently unknown in the county—P. F. Whitehead (pers. comm.) discovered it in the eastern Vice County during 1988.—Keith N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2EF.

### REFERENCE

Atty, D. B. 1983. *Coleoptera of Gloucestershire*. Privately Published, Cheltenham.